

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Regent Committee on Educational Relations Annual Report

**Date:** November 4, 2002

**Recommended** Receive the report.  
**Action:**

**Executive** The Regent Committee on Educational Relations (RCER) is directed to  
**Summary:** perform the following eight functions, pursuant to the Board of Regents  
*Policy Manual:*

- RCER functions
1. To establish closer relationships and cooperation with post-high school institutions in the state.
  2. To facilitate articulation between and among secondary schools and colleges in the state.
  3. To determine the acceptability of credit from nonpublic Iowa colleges not fully accredited by the regional accreditation association.
  4. To develop procedures for the validation or acceptance of credit in instances other than those delineated herein.
  5. To recommend for consideration by the Regents possible modifications in the general policy concerning admission of undergraduate students.
  6. To coordinate student record keeping practices and support joint research efforts related to student academic progress and performance within the Regent universities.
  7. To coordinate and make recommendations on other matters concerning relations with secondary schools and with other segments of post-secondary education as assigned by the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination.
  8. To prepare an annual report for presentation to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, at a stated time.

RCER/RRAO  
merger

During 2001-02, the functions, organizational structure, and membership of RCER and the Regents Registrars and Admissions Officers Coordinating Committee (RRAO) were reviewed by RCER and RRAO. To reduce duplication, RCER and RRAO merged into one committee, adding the Directors of Admissions to RCER and dissolving RRAO. The Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination and the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, approved the merger.

2001-02 goals  
and outcomes

RCER established the following four goals for 2001-02:

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Goal 1

*Goal 1:* To continue the discussion on alternative high school curriculum and to update and distribute the high school preparation brochure.

*Outcome:* The new high school preparation brochure, *Building Your Future*, was finalized during Fall 2001. It was mailed to Iowa high schools in January 2002 in sufficient quantities for all eighth and eleventh graders; the brochures also were sent to principals and counselors. A two-page Web version of *Building Your Future* was created and is available on the Board of Regents website. Links to the brochure are also on Regent university Offices of Admissions websites. In addition, junior high and high schools were encouraged to reprint the *Your Courses Count* matrix.

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Goal 2

*Goal 2:* To continue to explore seamless articulation strategies.

*Outcome 1:* RCER and the Liaison and Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS) co-sponsored an articulation conference on May 1, 2002. The conference focused on four topics: 1) student feedback on transfer and articulation issues; 2) joint enrollment/advising programs for Iowa community college students transferring to a Regent university; 3) inverted degree programs; and 4) the "real-world" transition from college to career. Approximately 100 individuals participated including representatives from Iowa high schools, community colleges, independent colleges/universities, the Regent universities, and the Iowa Department of Education.

*Outcome 2:* The Regent universities are actively moving toward on-line information that will enable students to determine if they have accumulated the necessary courses for transfer. To that end, RCER reviewed brochures/information provided by the Regent universities for prospective transfer students. Information for transfer students, including transfer course equivalencies, is available on the Regent university Offices of Admissions websites.

*Outcome 3:* RCER assisted the Board Office staff with the compilation of a list of all articulation agreements between Iowa community colleges and Regent universities. The document summarizing these agreements will be available on the Board of Regents website. Information about specific articulation agreements is also available on the Regent university Offices of Admissions websites.

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Goal 3                      *Goal 3:* To continue the work with high schools and community colleges regarding Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transmission of educational records.

*Outcome:* The Regent universities continue to provide consultation to Iowa community colleges and high schools on the implementation of EDI transcript transmission. Nationally, the State of Iowa continues to be a model for EDI. Progress has slowed due to budget constraints and competing administrative information technology priorities. Currently, five community colleges and six high schools are testing or actively using EDI transcript transmission.

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Goal 4                      *Goal 4:* To respond to the general education articulation issues from the State and specific concerns from the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination.

*Outcome:* At the request of the Iowa Department of Education, the Regent universities prepared a report on retention and graduation of Iowa community college students who transfer to the Regent universities.

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2002-03 goals              RCER has developed four goals for 2002-03, which are consistent with furthering the seamless education system in Iowa:

*Goal 1:* To promote actively seamless articulation strategies focused on PreK-16 alignment.

*Goal 2:* To facilitate and improve procedures for cross-enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students at the Regent universities and support the development and implementation of collaborative programs.

*Goal 3:* To respond to the general education articulation issues from the State and specific concerns from the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination.

*Goal 4:* To study four-year graduation rate data and advising strategies, and prepare a report for the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to be presented in May 2003.

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RCER report                The report of the Regent Committee on Educational Relations is attached, pages 5-8.

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**Link to  
Strategic Plan:**

The functions of RCER are aligned closely with two Key Result Areas of the Board of Regents Strategic Plan – 2.0.0.0 Access and 4.0.0.0 Accountability. Specifically, RCER functions are linked to:

- Action Step 2.1.2.2: Increase collaboration and cooperation with other sections of postsecondary education in marketing efforts.
- Action Step 4.4.2.3: Explore opportunities for partnerships among the Regent institutions and with other sectors of education.

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William R. Nelson

Approved:   
Gregory S. Nichols

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**REGENTS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**2001-2002**

**2001-2002 Committee Membership:**

Iowa State University

Howard Shapiro, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs  
Zora Zimmerman, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Kathy Jones, University Registrar  
Marc Harding, Director of Admissions

University of Iowa

Lola Lopes, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Fred Antczak, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts  
Jerry Dallam, University Registrar (retired December 2001)  
Catherine Pietrzyk, Associate Registrar  
Michael Barron, Director of Admissions

University of Northern Iowa

Susan Koch, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mary Bozik, Professor, Communication Studies  
Phil Patton, University Registrar  
Clark Elmer, Director of Enrollment Management and Admissions

Board of Regents, State of Iowa, Staff (ex-officio)

Charles Kniker, Associate Director of Academic Affairs

Iowa Department of Education (ex-officio)

Janice Friedel, Director, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation  
Evelyn Anderson, Bureau Chief, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

Officers for 2001-2002

Kathy Jones, Chair  
Phil Patton, Vice-Chair  
Lola Lopes, Secretary

The Committee met 8 times during the year, including the Articulation Conference held in Ames on May 1, 2002.

**CHANGES IN RCER FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

During 2001-2002, the functions, organizational structure, and committee membership of the Regents Committee on Educational Relations (RCER) and the Regents Registrars and Admissions Officers Coordination Committee (RRAO) were jointly reviewed by RCER and RRAO members. Because of the overlap in the makeup of the two committees, it was determined that the best course of action was to merge RCER and RRAO into one committee, adding the Directors of Admissions to the membership of RCER. The merger was approved by the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC) and the Board of Regents, State

of Iowa. Changes in the RCER committee functions and membership subsequently were incorporated into the Board of Regents Policy Manual revisions approved in May 2002.

**COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS:** (Board of Regents, State of Iowa, Policy Manual, Revised 2002)

1. To establish closer relationships and cooperation with post-high school institutions in the state.
2. To facilitate articulation between and among secondary schools and colleges in the state.
3. To determine the acceptability of credit from nonpublic Iowa colleges not fully accredited by the regional accreditation association.
4. To develop procedures for the validation or acceptance of credit in instances other than those delineated herein.
5. To recommend for consideration by the Regents possible modifications in the general policy concerning admission of undergraduate students.
6. To coordinate student record-keeping practices and support joint research efforts related to student academic progress and performance within the Regent universities.
7. To coordinate and make recommendations on other matters concerning relations with secondary schools and with other segments of post-secondary education as assigned by the Committee on Educational Coordination.
8. To prepare an annual report for presentation to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, at a stated time.

**GOALS FOR 2001-2002**

RCER established four major goals for 2001-2002. Those goals, along with progress reports for each goal, are listed below.

**Goal 1. To continue the discussion on alternative high school curriculum and to update and distribute the High School Preparation brochure.**

Strategy 1: The new high school preparation brochure "Building Your Future" was finalized during Fall Semester 2001. The brochure was designed to clarify both minimum requirements and strategies for thriving in college study. It was mailed to Iowa high schools in January 2002 in sufficient quantities for all eighth and eleventh graders. Individual copies of the brochure were also sent to principals and counselors with information about the new brochure.

In order to ensure continuing availability of this information to students, their parents, and counselors, a two-page web version of "Building Your Future" was also created and is available through the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, website (under "What's New" as well as under "Student Admission Links"). Links to the brochure can also be found on the Regent universities Office of Admissions websites. We have also encouraged junior high/high schools to reprint the "Your Courses Count" matrix in newsletters for parents.

**Goal 2. To continue to explore seamless articulation strategies.**

Strategy 1: RCER and the Liaison and Advisory Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS) co-sponsored an Articulation Conference May 1, 2002 that covered four topics relevant to seamless articulation: 1) Feedback from students who have crossed the various articulation points in our system; 2) Joint enrollment/advising programs for students at Iowa community colleges who plan to transfer to a Regent university; 3) Inverted degree programs – moving from the workplace to

the classroom; and 4) Making the real-world transition from college to career. Approximately one hundred (100) individuals participated in the conference including representatives from Iowa high schools, Iowa community colleges, Iowa private colleges, Iowa Regent universities, and the Iowa Department of Education.

Strategy 2: The Regent universities are actively moving to provide students with on-line information that would allow them to assess their status in any of our programs and to determine if they have accumulated the courses needed for transfer. In working towards this goal, RCER reviewed brochures and other information provided to prospective transfer students by the Regent universities. Information for transfer students, including transfer course equivalency information, is readily available through the Regent universities, Office of Admissions websites. Brochures for transfer students provide detailed information for prospective transfer students to help them carefully plan their transfer track.

Strategy 3: RCER supports the development of articulation agreements with all Iowa community colleges so that students can be assured that they will be able to transfer once they have the pre-requisite courses required for the degree program of choice. RCER members assisted the Board office staff with the compilation of all the transfer articulation agreements involving Regent universities. The document summarizing these agreements will be available on the Board web site. Information about specific agreements between community colleges and Regent university programs is also available on the Regent universities, Office of Admissions websites.

**Goal 3. To continue the work with high schools and community colleges regarding EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) transmission of educational records.**

Strategy 1: The Regent universities have continued to provide support, in the form of consultation services, for the implementation of EDI transcript transmission capabilities at Iowa community colleges and high schools. The state of Iowa continues to be a model in EDI nationally. Progress has slowed because of budget constraints and competing administrative information technology priorities. There are currently five community colleges and six high schools currently testing or actively using EDI for transmission of transcript information

**Goal 4. To respond to the general education articulation issues from the State and specific concerns from the inter-institutional committee on educational coordination.**

Strategy 1: At the request of the Iowa Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, the Regent universities prepared a report on the retention and graduation of Iowa community college transfers to the Regent universities. Data were reported separately for students who entered the Regent universities after earning an Associate of Arts (AA) degree and those who entered without the AA. This project led to the addition of similar information to the Fall 2002 graduation and retention report as presented in this month's docket materials.

**Additional Agenda Topics for 2001-2002**

A number of additional topics were discussed during the year that do not relate directly to one of the goals for the year, but do fall under the committee functions. These included the following:

- Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO) – There was some review and discussion of procedural matters related to PSEO, including scheduling of courses and

student textbook purchase policies. Some concerns were expressed that the legislated tuition per course (\$250) has not been changed since the act was passed in 1988.

- Teacher licensure standards and articulation – Current Iowa teacher licensure standards require verification that students in teacher preparation programs meet performance standards. Articulation questions relative to the transfer of students seeking teacher licensure were discussed.
- 2+2 Council – Committee members received regular updates from Kniker on the 2+2 Council.
- Leavers Study – Committee members heard reports on the implementation of a “Leavers Study” which will be used to document the reasons why first-time full-time freshmen, who are eligible to return the following year, do not do so.

### **GOALS FOR 2002-2003**

- Goal 1. To actively promote seamless articulation strategies promoting PreK-16 alignment.
- Goal 2. To facilitate and improve procedures for cross-enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students at the Regent universities and support the development and implementation of collaborative programs.
- Goal 3. To respond to the general education articulation issues from the State and specific concerns from the inter-institutional committee on educational coordination.
- Goal 4: To study four-year graduation rate data and advising strategies and prepare a report for the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to be presented in May 2003.

### **OFFICERS FOR 2002-2003**

Phil Patton, (UNI), Chair  
Larry Lockwood (SUI), Vice-Chair  
Kathy Jones, (ISU), Secretary

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen M. Jones  
RCER Chair, 2001-2002